

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1455

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, WB, FR, US, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR: BERLIN CHARTERS

1. BRITISH EMBASSY QUERIED US LAST WEEK ON BASIS REPORT FROM BRITISH MISSION BERLIN THAT PANAM HAD SUCCEEDED OBTAINING GOF APPROVAL OPERATE BERLIN-PARIS CHARTERS DURING SUMMER SEASON. AFTER CHECKING WITH PANAM WE INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY REPORT WAS INCORRECT. PANAM HAS NOT SOUGHT OPERATE SUMMER PROGRAM OF BERLIN-PARIS CHARTERS AFTER COMPLETION SPRING PROGRAM LATE MAY. PANAM'S FILING FOR FALL PROGRAM IS STILL PENDING BEFORE SGAC, AND SGAC HAS INDICATED ORALLY TO PANAM IT IS STILL NOT DISPOSED APPROVE PROGRAM FOR REASONS GIVEN EARLIER (PARIS 12630, PARIS 16294).

2. PANAM IS PRESSING SGAC FOR WRITTEN REPLY WHICH SGAC HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN HESITANT FURNISH. PANAM MUST HAVE SGAC DECISION BY EARLY AUGUST SINCE IT IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM BERLIN TOUR OPERATOR WHO IS ANXIOUS FIRM UP AND MARKET HIS PROGRAM. MME. THOMASSET OF SGAC HAS TOLD PANAM SHE REMAINS

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SKEPTICAL OF THEIR CLAIM THAT TRAFFIC WILL GO TO

DESTINATIONS OTHER THAN FRANCE IF PANAM PROGRAM NOT APPROVED AND SHE STILL PROFESSES SEE NO REASON WHY TRAFFIC CANNOT MOVE ON AIR FRANCE'S DAILY SCHEDULED FLIGHT AT GOF-APPROVED SPECIAL GROUP RATE. ACCORDING PANAM, PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY, WHICH IS OPERATING IN THE RED AND IS THUS ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP TRAFFIC, SUPPORTS PANAM POSITION BUT ITS VIEWS HAVE GONE UNHEEDED BY SGAC. COMMEAU, NEW PANAM MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR FRANCE, HAS ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SGAC APPROVAL.

3. STATE 142952 HAD INDICATED THAT FUTURE DISCUSSIONS THIS QUESTION SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN BONN. IN ABSENCE INSTRUCTIONS WE HAVE NOT RAISED QUESTION WITH FRENCH BEYOND FACT-FINDING QUERIES TO MME. THOMASSET REPORTED PREVIOUSLY. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER LOW-KEY INFORMAL SOUNDING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY MIGHT BE WAY OF GETTING PROBLEM OFF DEAD CENTER IN PARIS AND INFLUENCING INSTRUCTIONS SENT TO FRENCH CAA IN BONN. MME. THOMASSET BRIDLES AT ANY SUGGESTION CAA'S IN BONN ARE COMPETENT DISCUSS WHAT SHE CONTENTS IS PURELY AIR TRANSPORT POLICY MATTER FOR WHICH ONLY SGAC IS COMPETENT. DISCREET INQUIRY TO CIVAIR OFFICIAL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY REVEALED HE HAD HEARD NOTHING OF MATTER. IT WOULD APPEAR, THEREFORE, THAT TO DATE SUBJECT OF BERLIN CHARTERS MAY HAVE BEEN HANDLED EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN SGAC AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO TRIPARTITE OBLIGATIONS AND OTHER POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO BERLIN TRAFFIC THAT WOULD WEIGH WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND COULD INFLUENCE THE LINES OF A WIDELY CLEARED GOF (AS DISTINCT FROM PURELY SGAC) POSITION.

4. ADVISE.
GAMMON

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